BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268–0001

PERIODIC REPORTING
(PROPOSALS THREE THROUGH EIGHT)

Docket No. RM2014-6

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO QUESTION 1 OF CHAIRMAN'S
INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 4**
(August 7, 2014)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to Question 1 of

Chairman's Information Request No. 4, issued August 1, 2014 (with caption revised on

August 4). The question is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorney:

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1. Proposal Seven at 3 states that the average Standard Mail pallet contained 6,653 letters in FY 2013. It also states that the Postal Service proposes to include this statistic in the mail characteristics file (USPS-FY13-14) in the future and rely upon this statistic to estimate the letters non-transportation costs. Please answer the following:

a. Please provide the derivation of this figure. In the response, please provide all source inputs.

b. Please confirm that the Postal Service will update this statistic each fiscal year. If not confirmed, please explain.

RESPONSE:

a. The estimate of the average size of Standard Mail pallets with letter shaped pieces is developed using the methodology described in the Preface of USPS-FY13-14 (section D.2.ii, pages 11-15) and uses Mail.dat files provided to the eVS as a measure of preparation characteristic by shape, presort rate, and entry. FORTRAN programs used in the development of these estimates have been provided in USPS-FY13-14 in Docket No. ACR2013. In the Excel spreadsheet file attached to this response electronically, ChIR.4.Lttr.Pc.Pallet.xls, the estimated characteristics of Standard Mail letter pallets by pallet presort level and entry facility generated by the FORTRAN programs have been provided. As shown in the spreadsheet, these are the inputs from which the average number of Standard Mail letter pieces per pallet is derived. Specifically, the total number of letter pieces is 44,526,511,762, the total number of pallets is 6,692,873, and the average number of letters pieces per pallet is thus 6,653.

b. Confirmed.